



EDF Renewables Ireland and Simply Blue Group sign partnership deal on Western Star and Emerald floating offshore wind projects in Ireland.



Issued 31st May 2023 – EDF Renewables Ireland has entered into a partnership to develop the Western Star and Emerald floating wind projects with Simply Blue Group. The partnership is subject to a merger clearance expected in the coming months. The 50:50 joint venture partners will now seek to progress the two projects to meet Irish Government targets to have 2GW of floating wind in development by 2030.

The Western Star floating wind project will be located at least 35km off the west coast of Clare in waters over 100m deep and have a total capacity of up to 1.35GW, while the Emerald Floating Wind project, to be located off the south coast of Cork, will have a total capacity of up to 1.3GW. The two

projects would together generate enough low-carbon electricity to power approximately two million Irish homes.¹

The partnership underlines the confidence of EDF Renewables and Simply Blue Group in the Irish market, underpinned by the Irish Government's commitment to generate 7GW of electricity from offshore wind by 2030. Both parties see great potential in the scale of opportunity for floating offshore wind in Ireland off the south and west coasts.

Matthieu Hue, CEO of EDF Renewables UK and Ireland, said: "We are very pleased to sign the partnership on these two exciting floating offshore wind projects. Emerald and Western Star will complement our flagship, fixed-bottom foundation, Codling Wind Park development off the east coast of Ireland, diversifying our offshore portfolio in Ireland and strengthening our position as a key player in the UK and Irish offshore markets."

"These projects further strengthen EDF Renewables' position as a leading global player in the emerging floating wind industry, joining a portfolio that includes our Gwynt Glas project in the Celtic Sea and Provence Grand Large off the south coast of France.

"We are looking forward to working closely with Simply Blue Group to deliver on the two projects' great potential to make a significant contribution to the Irish Government's renewable energy goals."

Sam Roch Perks, CEO of Simply Blue Group, stated that "Simply Blue are delighted to partner with EDF Renewables to deliver these strategic assets and to deliver Ireland's first floating offshore wind farms. As an international renewable energy company, EDF Renewables are major players in the energy transition worldwide, ensuring alignment with Simply Blue's culture and commitment to making a positive impact on climate, biodiversity and coastal communities. Simply Blue's expertise in floating offshore wind, with over 10GW of floating projects in development globally, has been brought to bear on the selection of the two sites, following extensive stakeholder engagement and initial environmental assessments."

Ryanne Burges, Director of Offshore and Ireland at EDF Renewables, said: "Western Star and Emerald add to EDF Renewables UK and Ireland's growing portfolio of offshore wind projects. This includes the operational Blyth and Teesside offshore wind farms in England, Neart na Gaoithe which is currently under construction off the coast of Scotland, and Codling Wind Park which was recently successful in Ireland's first ever offshore wind energy auction."

Val Cummins, Project Managing Director for Emerald and Western Star, added "the partnership is ideally placed to deliver for Phase 3 of offshore wind in Ireland. This is key to kick-starting floating offshore wind, which will have a transformational positive impact on Ireland's maritime and energy landscape, including the coastal communities in Cork and Clare."

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¹ Reference for typical household annual electricity consumption is from the CRU - <https://www.cru.ie/publications/25651/>.

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About EDF Renewables Ireland

EDF Renewables Ireland is part of one of the world's largest electricity companies and our investment and innovation in renewable energy projects is reducing costs for consumers and bringing significant benefits to communities.

EDF Renewables Ireland's team has a wealth of experience in bringing complex development projects to fruition, across onshore and offshore wind, solar PV and battery storage technology, and is supported by more than 400 colleagues in the UK.

In 2020 we acquired 50% of Codling Wind Park, a major offshore wind farm which will be located off the coast of Co. Wicklow, with a dedicated team who have begun developing the project, and 100% of Wexford Solar, which includes eight solar projects across Ireland. In total we have an Irish onshore development pipeline of almost 1GW.

In the UK and Ireland, EDF Renewables has over 2GW of assets in operation or under construction across offshore wind, onshore wind, solar and battery storage, as well as a development pipeline exceeding 10GW.

EDF Renewables operates in more than 20 countries around the world.

www.edf-re.ie

About Simply Blue Group

Simply Blue Group, headquartered in Cork, Ireland, is a leading blue economy developer focused on replacing fossil fuels with clean ocean energy. It develops pioneering blue economy projects – floating offshore wind, e-Fuels, wave energy and low-impact aquaculture – all in harmony with the oceans. The company has a pipeline of over 10GW of floating offshore wind projects across the globe.

Simply Blue Group is committed to creating new economic opportunities for coastal communities, and developing projects that co-exist with sustainable fisheries and marine conservation.

With a passionate team of over 100 people, Simply Blue Group has offices in Cork, Dublin, Belfast, Newquay, Pembrokeshire, Edinburgh, Hamburg, Bilbao, Oregon and Nova Scotia.

To find out more about our blue economy projects, please visit www.simplybluegroup.com